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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

Item#1

AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD 2009: AN INVESTIGATION OF PUBLIC AND LEADERSHIP OPINION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. December 3, 2009.

The general public and members of the Council on Foreign Relations are apprehensive and uncertain about America's place in the world. Growing numbers in both groups see the United States playing a less important role globally, while acknowledging the increasing stature of China. And the general public, which is in a decidedly inward-looking frame of mind when it comes to global affairs, is less supportive of increasing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan than are CFR members, according to the survey.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/569.pdf> [PDF format, 122 pages].

Item#2

AVOIDING ELECTIONS AT ANY COST IN IRAQ. Council on Foreign Relations. Rachel Schneller. December 3, 2009.

The author says that Iraqi political factions should be given time to sort out their power-sharing rules rather than be rushed into elections in January 2010, a date pegged to U.S. troop withdrawals.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/20879/avoiding_elections_at_any_cost_in_iraq.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fregion_issue_brief [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

CLIMATE CHANGE: THE U.S. FOUNDATION RESPONSE. Foundation Center. Steven Lawrence. December 2009.

The December 2009 Climate Conference in Copenhagen will be the final meeting of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) prior to its requiring renewal in 2012. The Foundation Center has prepared the brief overview of U.S. foundation support focused on the global climate crisis to provide context about philanthropy's efforts to address climate issues.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://foundationcenter.org/gainknowledge/research/pdf/researchadvisory_climate.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

Item#4

COPENHAGEN'S MANY AGENDAS. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johson. December 4, 2009.

The U.N. conference on climate change that begins December 7 in Copenhagen is supposed to produce new targets for emissions reductions, but experts say major countries are at odds on the ultimate goal of a new framework. This backgrounder looks at some of their positions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/20906/copenhagens_many_agendas.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

GLOBAL WARMING SEEN AS A MAJOR PROBLEM AROUND THE WORLD. Pew Global Attitudes Project. December 2, 2009.

When world leaders convene in Copenhagen, Denmark, next week to discuss climate change, they will be addressing a concern that, as the latest Pew Global Attitudes survey finds, is widely shared throughout much of the world. The survey, conducted May 18 to June 16, also reveals that majorities in 23 of 25 countries agree that protecting the environment should be given priority, even at the cost of slower economic growth and job losses. And many are willing to make sacrifices, such as having to pay higher prices, to address global warming.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1427/global-warming-major-problem-around-world-americans-less-concerned> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

JOBS AND THE NEW GROWTH AGENDA. New America Foundation. Michael Lind. December 2, 2009.

President Obama's December 3rd jobs summit has drawn attention to the debate over policy options for job creation. The case for intelligent and aggressive public policy to promote job creation, in addition to the helpful but inadequate stimulus package, is overwhelming. The official unemployment rate is currently 10.2 percent, and rises to 17.5 percent when marginally attached workers and those working part-time out of necessity are included.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Jobs%20and%20the%20New%20Growth%20Agenda.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

Item#7

MEDICAID MELTDOWN: DROPPING MEDICAID COULD SAVE STATES \$1 TRILLION. The Heritage Foundation. Dennis G. Smith and Edmund F. Haislmaier. December 1, 2009.

The authors contend that the health care legislation currently in Congress not only imposes new costs on states through expansion of the Medicaid program; it also preempts state authority in management of the program. Faced with becoming merely an agent of the federal government, states will likely take the rational and reasoned approach of simply ending the state-federal partnership known as Medicaid.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2009/pdf/wm2712.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

Item#8

NORTH KOREA'S CURRENCY REEVALUATION: A TIPPING POINT? U.S. Institute of Peace. John S. Park. December 3, 2009.

On Nov. 30, the North Korean government revalued the country's currency, the won, and imposed restrictions on the quantity of old bills that people could convert for the new ones. Pyongyang's revaluation means that 100 won is now worth 1 won. This sudden government action raises many questions about the impact of the revaluation on the North Korean people and the regime.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.usip.org/resources/north-korea-s-currency-revaluation-tipping-point#explanations> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

OBAMA IN ASIA – PART II. YaleGlobal. Kavi Chongkittavorn. November 18, 2009.

While President Obama's visit to Southeast Asia is hailed as a breakthrough in relations between the U.S. and the region, the ground was prepared since the new administration took office. With accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in July, writes Kavi Chungkittavorn, Washington signaled its sincerity toward Asean. But there was American interest at stake too for the U.S. to be back in the region after years of neglect. The U.S. shifted its stance to come closer to Asean's position on its truculent member, Burma, which has so long been shunned by Washington. For now Obama's willingness to consult and listen has earned the U.S. much goodwill in Asean.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/obama-asia-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

OBAMA SEEN AS MORE FRIENDLY THAN HIS PARTY: GOP SEEN AS FRIENDLIER TO RELIGION THAN DEMOCRATS. The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. December 1, 2009.

More Americans continue to view the Republican Party as friendly toward religion (48%) than rate the Democratic Party that way (29%). President Barack Obama's administration, however, is seen as friendly toward religion by more people (37%) than the Democratic Party as a whole. And all three get higher ratings for friendliness toward religion than the news media (14%), scientists (12%) or Hollywood (11%).

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/568.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

Item#11

THE PROSPECTS FOR COPENHAGEN: MORE REALISM CAN SMOOTH THE WAY. U.S. Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy. November 2009.

When more than 190 nations gather in Copenhagen, Denmark next month, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will be among the organizations pushing for a strong international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The report details just how challenging the task will be.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.energyxxi.org/reports/15347_Copenhagen.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].